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Reviews.

Synopsis of Malveæ, or an Enumeration of the Plants contained in the first Tribe of the Natural Order Malvaceæ. Edmund G Baker (8vo, pp. 824; reprinted from the Journal of Botany, 1890-1894).

Mr. Baker has laid the botanical world under deep obligation to him by his publication of the series of papers on Malveæ, now conveniently brought together in one volume. He is modest in terming this work an "enumeration;" it is really much more than this, for diagnoses of all the species of the genera first taken up are given, and we understand from his preface that they would have been given throughout had the space of the Journal been available for the purpose. We presume that the learned editor of the Journal felt that he needed the space which might otherwise have most advantageously been assigned Mr. Baker for the purpose of defending his antiquated views on nomenclature. It is unfortunate that Mr. Baker did not select a more elastic organ for his papers.

The sequence adopted for the genera and the characters relied on for their limitation follow pretty closely the treatment of the group by Bentham and Hooker. *Sidastrum* is a proposed new genus based on *Sida quinquenervia* Duchass. In a supplement Mr. Baker expresses himself as favoring the recognition of Prof. Greene's genus *Hesperalcea*, but he does not agree with Dr. Kuntze in regarding *Malvæopsis* of Presl as an equivalent of *Malvastrum* A. Gray, noting that the type of *Malvæopsis* (*Malva anomala* Link & Otto) is not definitely determined, and is doubtfully referred by him to *Sphæralcea elegans* Don.

A large number of species are described as new, South and Central American ones being added to the genera *Malvastrum*, *Cristaria*, *Gaya*, *Sida*, *Abutilon* and *Sphæralcea*. A comprehensive index is added.

N. L. B.

Description of some fossil plants from the Great Falls coal field of Montana. Wm. M. Fontaine. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 15: 487-495, pl. 82-84 (1892).

The following new species and varieties are described: *Aspidium monocarpum*, *A. angustipinnatum* Font. var. *Montanense*, *Pe-*

copteris Montanensis, *Cladophlebis heterophylla* and *Zamites Montanaensis*. It is unfortunate that the author should have chosen this latter name for a new species, in view of *Zamites Montana* Dawson (on the Mesozoic Floras of the Rocky Mountain Region of Canada, Trans. Roy. Soc. Canada, Sec. iv. (1885) p. 7), which not only resembles it closely in name, but in character and in geological horizon. In fact the absence of all reference to Dawson's work leads us to suspect that the author must have overlooked it, and we are inclined to doubt the validity of this new species, after careful comparison with a large amount of the material from Great Falls. The same may also be said in regard to *Aspidium Montanense*, which is suspiciously similar to *Asplenium Albertum*, Dawson. A. H.

Proceedings of the Club.

TUESDAY EVENING, MAY 8TH, 1894.

Dr. Britton in the chair and 28 persons present.

The Field Committee reported that all the announced meetings had been held, that the season was very advanced, and the meetings highly appreciated and largely attended.

A communication was read from the Brooklyn Citizens' Committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 43d Meeting, inviting the members of the Club to participate in its hospitalities on the occasion of that meeting. The communication was accepted and the Secretary instructed to present the thanks of the Club.

A communication was read from Mr. W. T. Bell, announcing the formation of a botanical club with twenty members, in Franklin, Venango county, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Britton then announced the death of Mr. Thomas Morong, on Thursday, April 26, at his son's home in Ashland, Massachusetts, and spoke briefly of his life and work. Upon motion, the following committee was appointed to draw up suitable resolutions concerning the death of Mr. Morong: Hon. Addison Brown, Dr. T. F. Allen, Dr. T. C. Porter.